

East Ardsley in charge after century stand

By Stuart Hodgson

TWO fine innings made all the difference to an East Ardsley victory over Thornhill in Division One of the Central Yorkshire League on Saturday.

Opener Andy Langley batted through the innings for a well deserved unbeaten 91 and Simon Stirling – returning from injury – scored an excellent 64.

When Stirling went to the wicket promotion chasing East Ardsley were struggling on 61-4 against a steady Thornhill attack, but when he was out the score had moved up to 164 with the stand of 103 changing the complexion of the match.

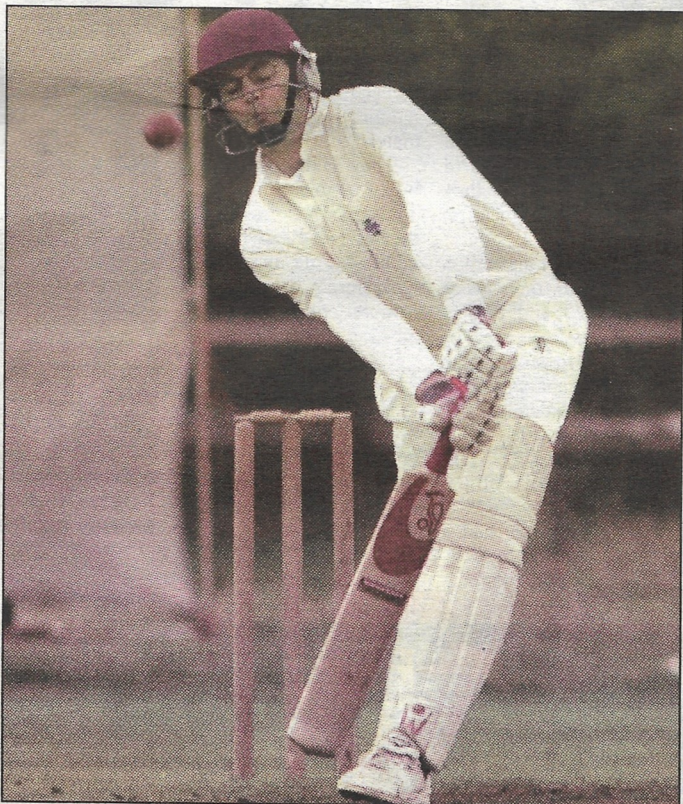
Although only Mick Varley (18) joined opener Langley and Stirling in reaching double figures, East Ardsley were able to set a challenging target as they reached 210-8 off their allotted overs.

Thornhill looked like making a real challenge until Varley took the ball to prove his all-round value to the East Ardsley team.

After coming on as the fourth change bowler, he proceeded to take 4-18 in 7.2 overs and the visitors went from 115-4 to an eventual 145 all out.

Tariq Hafees (3-36) ended the early damage and came up with big wickets when he bowled Thornhill's top scorer, Martin Griffiths, for 36 and had opener Khan caught by Varley for 29.

There were few smiles for East



BATTING ON - Julian Smith in action for East Ardsley against Thornhill when he was able to make just five. (DM9800c33)

Ardsley seconds as they were soundly beaten by nine wickets by Wakefield City.

Only three batsmen made double figures and no-one was able to top 20 as ten-man Ardsley were bowled

out for 57. Wade, with 4-17 from 15 overs, was the chief tormentor.

Mark Gibbons (36 not out) then led Wakefield's run charge for victory as they took less than ten overs to reach the target.



BATTING HERO - Andy Langley who batted throughout for East Ardsley to score 91 not out against Thornhill on Saturday (DM9800a33)
Picture by KEITH LAWSON